

tion you're viewing only one link in the chain of life, the past and the future, though invisible, remain in the depths of God. He reveals their secrets to who are in tune with Him."

Although most of us have no conscious recollection of former lives, we are not only living the effects of all we have caused in those lives but it is those very causes that initiate us to be born *UNEQUAL*!

We must not confuse the belief that "all men are created equal," with the thought that "all men are born equal." We know that a child born with a birth defect could not possibly expect the same life style or opportunities as a child born without one. A child born in a ghetto could not expect the same experiences as a child born on a country estate. While we do know that the concept that all men are created equal is true insofar as referring to man as a soul entity in his original creation, what he does with that equality from then on as he moves from life to life is completely his own choice and free will. Naturally what he does with this will determine the levels that his soul reaches as well as when he reaches them.

Two different individuals confronted with the same events or circumstances handle themselves differently; one running away from the event and the other coping and rising with it to its highest karmic possibility. The first individual has to repeat the event again and again while the second individual is ready to move on to new lessons. As the days pass into months and years and lifetimes, the second individual will be rising into higher levels of karma more rapidly while the first individual could very easily be dealing with the same basic elemental karmic lessons for an eternity of lifetimes.

Visualize if you will children in a school class at the beginning of the school term. They all start with new books, new clothes, sharpened pencils and new lunchboxes. They all come into the class seemingly

equal; however, they have all come out of last year's class unequal. Within a few weeks, some students will have torn notebooks, lost lunch boxes and no homework done, while others will be engaged in extra-curricular projects which will bring them higher grades and a great deal of learning and growth during the current school term. When the year is over the same story repeats. Because the students were not equal at the beginning they are less equal at the end. The teacher looking objectively at the class can see the different levels that each student is reaching.

The beginning of the school year is much like the beginning of life; always unequal at the start and always filled with different future lessons for each separate individual.

What's good for the goose is not necessarily good for the gander. As your eyes roam the green valleys of your neighbor's yard, God smiles and says:

"Ah, but I have something better in store for you though you find it not if you try to master your neighbor's lessons."

Although we all live under the same karmic law, we each stand on a different rung of the ladder to perfection. Each step is a different growth phase, the most important of which is the one we are about to take. But always it will be in terms of all the steps we have already taken to get us to the height on the ladder where we now stand. Each of the steps behind us is a past incarnation and in every life we are making sure that all parts of the ladder below us are firm and steady. It is more hazardous to race up a shaky ladder than to struggle on the lower rungs while we make them secure.